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Executive Summary:

Discovery Channel Global Education Fund (DCGEF) is a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization, dedicated to reaching across the global information divide with the tools and training necessary to extend the power of technology and information to populations left out of the information age. Hundreds of thousands of children living in remote or under-resourced areas throughout the world now have access to empowering information through the use of video and satellite technology. DCGEF works with schools and communities all over the world in a proven, effective and sustainable program that includes providing equipment, training and educational programming from a wide range of sources on topics that meet the communities' needs.

In Namibia, DCGEF is a partner in the USAID Global Development Alliance: Technology Solutions to Improve Basic Education in Namibia. A US \$50,000 grant enabled DCGEF to leverage contributions from MultiChoice Namibia and Discovery Communications, Inc. to launch the project in 12 schools. The project is supporting teacher professional development, community participation in schools, and increasing communities' access to and use of educational media and video programming for social benefit.

DCGEF is the co-lead organization in implementing a portion of the Alliance activity, and focuses primarily on the Learning Center project. DCGEF is working closely with the Ministry of Basic Education, Sports and Culture (MBESC) through its collaboration with NIED (National Institute for Educational Development) and EPI (Educational Implementation Programme). NIED and EPI provide valuable support in identifying under-served schools that would make suitable DCGEF sites, help facilitate DCGEF's ongoing relationships with the Namibian schools, and help facilitate training and monitoring activities, among other things. DCGEF also works closely with other Alliance and non-Alliance partners such as MultiChoice Namibia to leverage funds and technical expertise. Through its other partnerships DCGEF has provided \$125,000 worth of resources (in cash and in kind) to the three-year Learning Center project, thus ensuring that USAID's \$50,000 contribution was more than doubled.



From December 2002 - July 2003, DCGEF worked with partners NIED and MultiChoice Namibia to identify, assess, and select 12 pilot schools to be part of the Learning Center project in four regions in Namibia. DCGEF and regional education advisers from NIED and EPI conducted a baseline evaluation and delivered equipment (TV, VCR, DSTV system), and a set of educational programming developed in collaboration with local communities in Africa. DCGEF also delivered an intensive, three-day workshop to teachers on the interactive use of TV and video in the classroom to enhance learning.

DCGEF local staff report that teachers are actively using the equipment, and there has been a great demand from teachers who have not had training.

On July 9, 2003 USAID and MultiChoice Namibia held an event to officially launch the project in Namibia. The celebration, held at Groot Aub Junior Secondary School near Windhoek, was attended by representatives from MBESC, the US Embassy, USAID, the private sector, NGOs, the media, and the Groot Aub community. The event generated significant publicity for the project and its partners.

During this reporting period (August – December 2003), DCGEF focused on training and monitoring at each individual school in order to reinforce the three-day intensive training workshop and help ensure that the teachers who participated were able to transfer their new skills to the other teachers at their schools and surrounding schools. The DCGEF Country Representative continued to support teachers in connecting DCGEF video programs and DSTV programs to the local curriculum. DCGEF is happy to report that an agreement was signed in December 2003 with a new partner, the Africa-America Institute, that will facilitate expansion to five new schools in February 2004.

The Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture is pleased with the progress that USAID, MultiChoice Namibia and DCGEF have made in rolling the project out to 12 schools during the past year and the positive impact that is already evident in the schools and surrounding communities. DCGEF is grateful for USAID's support, and hopes to work together to expand our reach to additional schools in 2004.

DCGEF Background:

DCGEF has established **144 Learning Centers** in under-resourced schools in **10 countries** – Angola, Ecuador, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Learning Center project uses a comprehensive approach to education that includes the provision of sustainable technology, community ownership, long-term teacher training, capacity building and access to a wide array of information available via television, video and satellite. A recently completed project evaluation demonstrates that the project is making a positive difference. An independent evaluation of the Learning Center project completed in late 2003 provides convincing evidence of its positive impact on students' learning and motivation, teacher effectiveness, and school-community relationships. The report will be sent to USAID Namibia in January 2004.

Each Learning Center receives a TV, VCR, satellite technology (where possible), customized educational programming, and teacher training in the interactive use of TV and video in the classroom. The Learning Center project is locally managed and operates in partnership with local and national education authorities. DCGEF makes a three-year commitment to provide training and monitoring to the schools, thereby equipping them to become sustainable community information hubs. To date the

project is reaching almost **270,000 children** and their communities. More than **5,000 teachers** have benefited from technology and training. DCGEF's near term goal is to reach 1 million children and their communities by the end of 2005.

To be useful, information must be relevant. To that end, DCGEF responds to local requests for specific information on a wide range of subjects by working to identify television services and video programming from local and international sources and to make them available to Learning Centers. In addition, DCGEF collaborates with local communities to create programming that is designed primarily for classroom use. The products of this collaborative process are culturally relevant, high quality educational video programming created, in large part, from resources donated by Discovery Communications, Inc. from its library of non-fiction programming. DCGEF further customizes this special programming into local languages. To date, DCGEF has customized programming and training into five different languages – English, Ndebele, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish.

By partnering with private corporations, governments, communities and other NGOs, DCGEF uses modern technology as a vehicle to improve education, support teacher professional development, and provide additional information on combating local and international challenges such as HIV/AIDS. Today, rural and disadvantaged communities are seeing other lands and other cultures, and even parts of their own countries, for the first time. Science, nature, history, and geography are brought to life in classrooms no matter how remote. With the continuing help of partner organizations, children and their communities can receive the tools and information they will need for tomorrow.

Namibia Project Status (as of December 2003)

Location:	Namibia
Project began in schools:	April 2003
Duration:	3 years from start date in each school
Number of Learning Centers:	12
Number of teachers trained:	265
Number of students DCGEF is reaching:	8,390
Number of parents and community members reached through workshops:	2,394

Currently, DCGEF works in 12 schools in six regions of Namibia: Erongo, Kunene, Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto and Okavango. All but two of the sites are designated as cluster schools by the MBESC. Each cluster school supports five more schools in its respective region. These schools, in turn, are able to use the Learning Center facilities to view programs of interest and to conduct workshops on HIV/AIDS and health, among

others. Eleven of the 12 Learning Centers are in primary and combined schools, and one is a teacher training college in Rundu.

Objectives Achieved During this Reporting Period:
(Year 1, August – December 2003)

- **Local capacity building and ownership:** DCGEF's local staff is supporting each Learning Center in developing its capacity to manage and sustain the project, with exciting results.
- **Training and monitoring:** The DCGEF Country Representative is providing training and monitoring at each of the 12 Learning Centers to assist teachers in connecting the TV and video content to the local curriculum and to help teachers gain confidence in using the technology effectively in the classroom. From the initial group of 26 teachers trained, now over 265 teachers have been trained.
- **Learning Centers support HIV/AIDS education efforts:** More and more teachers are using the resources to show HIV/AIDS-related programs to students and community members.
- **Building library of locally relevant video programming:** Two new video programs have been added to the existing library of DCGEF tapes at each school including ***Human Biology*** and ***Surviving Natural Disasters***. DCGEF also obtained rights to distribute programs from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The video magazine series, called Azimuths, focuses on the problems and challenges that face people all over the world, including the environment, health, drugs, human rights, population movements, international trade, racism and marginalization.
- **Increase in use of DSTV programs:** DCGEF Learning Centers are learning to identify and record suitable DSTV programs and to integrate them into their educational and other extra-curricular activities.
- **Leveraging funds - new partnerships for expansion:** DCGEF developed a partnership with the Africa-America Institute to expand the project to five more schools in northern Namibia. Potential schools were visited in late November and DCGEF and AAI will finalize site selection by mid-January 2004.
- **Project evaluation yields positive results:** An independent evaluation firm completed a qualitative and quantitative study of the Learning Center project in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe where schools had been participating in the project for at least two years. Evaluation results confirm the positive impact the Learning Center project is having on students, teachers and community members. Reports will be distributed in January.

Detailed Project Activities for this Report Period:

School and Community Ownership

Local ownership is critical to developing sustainable community information hubs. Through its staff support at each Learning Center, DCGEF makes every effort to ensure that the schools and communities buy into the project from the very beginning, and that they get involved in its long-term maintenance.

Local buy-in begins with an application process that helps DCGEF understand how the school and community intend to use the Learning Center resources to support school and community development. Once selected, schools sign an agreement whereby they agree to provide for security and maintenance of the equipment, to integrate its use into the classroom and community activities, and to oversee the projects' success by appointing at least one volunteer coordinator and establishing an oversight committee. The committees are made up of community leaders and school administrators.

The 12 schools in Namibia have demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm and ownership over the project. For example, despite a shortage of resources, each school constructed a cabinet to house and protect the equipment. In two schools, parents made small contributions that were used to hire security guards to protect the Learning Centers.

The Learning Centers have remained accessible to people in the surrounding communities. Arrangements for the use of the facilities after school hours are made with each school's principal and the volunteer school coordinators. The volunteer coordinators are responsible for the operation of the equipment, for training fellow teachers, and for making sure that the room is securely locked after use. Community members have embraced the opportunity to utilize the Learning Centers for workshops on health and other issues, as well as for viewing news and entertainment programs. The demand for entertainment and news programs has been growing steadily.

Ongoing Training and Monitoring

As part of its commitment to the success of each Learning Center, DCGEF provides ongoing training and support to the schools. The DCGEF Country Representative holds monthly observation sessions in each school, and provides training to help the teachers and administrators gain confidence in using technology in the classroom and linking various programming sources to the curriculum.



As stated earlier, each school appoints at least one volunteer coordinator. In Namibia the schools elected to appoint two volunteer coordinators to oversee the project and provide training for their fellow teachers. In addition to providing training at their own schools, the volunteer coordinators also train teachers from surrounding schools.

From the initial group of 26 teachers trained in the first workshop in February, the number of teachers trained has increased to 265 as of October 2003.

The cluster schools have carefully established timetables so surrounding schools can also use the equipment at the Learning Centers. As word gets around concerning the project, more and more schools are eagerly inquiring about how they, too, can get involved and receive the benefit of the new equipment and training.

Learning Centers support HIV/AIDS efforts

Schoolteachers, who often double as HIV/AIDS program coordinators, are using equipment at the Learning Centers for HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns. In societies where a lack of awareness has often hampered efforts to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the video, television and satellite programs and equipment provided by DCGEF, USAID and MultiChoice have become important tools in critical public health education activities. For example, a women's group conducts workshops on Wednesday nights at Amutanga Combined School, a Learning Center in Ondangwa. The group brings informational videos – including HIV/AIDS material – to show to the community.

Satellite Programming in the Classroom

DCGEF helps provide communities with access to a wide variety of educational and entertainment programming from different sources. In addition to using videos produced by DCGEF and others, teachers in Namibia are now eager to record educational DSTV programs for use in their classrooms. Through DCGEF's guidance teachers are becoming more familiar with the resources at their disposal, and how to use them to enhance their classroom teaching. For example, they eagerly seek out new programs from channels such as National Geographic, as well as health-related programs, and channels that focus on cooking and other household activities that are of special interest to instructors who teach home craft courses.

DCGEF, with the help of MultiChoice Namibia, trained teachers to identify and record suitable DSTV programs. DSTV is helping to widen the knowledge of teachers. It encourages them to look beyond the prescribed books, and to seek out other tools that can help make their classes even more creative and engaging for students.

MultiChoice Namibia has also donated blank tapes to schools for recording purposes. This has brought a lot of relief to schools that cannot always afford the cost of videocassettes.

New Partnership with AAI

DCGEF has established an agreement with the Africa-America Institute (AAI) to establish five new Learning Centers in northern Namibia. AAI will provide the funding to enable DCGEF to launch the five new sites. With headquarters in New York, AAI is a non-profit organization that works to engage Africans and Americans through training programs and dialogue. AAI is recognized for its professional development programs for teachers delivered through long-distance learning platforms. DCGEF, through its Learning Center project, will provide an avenue for AAI to disseminate its teacher training curriculum and other educational information via television and video outside of university settings, thus enabling them to reach more under-served populations.

In late November DCGEF local staff and AAI representative Mr. Mamadou Jalo visited Katima Mulilo and Ondangwa to identify and assess schools for the DCGEF-AAI project. The need for teacher training is especially critical in these regions. More than half of the primary teachers in the northern regions are not graduates of teacher training schools. More than 16% have less than a 12th grade education.

DCGEF and AAI identified six schools in Katima Mulilo and four in Ondangwa that met project criteria. The potential sites are cluster schools that support additional schools in the surrounding area. The schools were invited to submit applications to join the Learning Center project and five will be selected.

DCGEF expects to approve the applications and sign individual MOUs with each school the week of January 14.

Evaluation of Learning Center Project in Southern and Eastern Africa

DCGEF commissioned an education and social research firm, Clacherty and Associates, based in South Africa, to conduct an independent evaluation of the Learning Center project in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The evaluation examined the impact of the project on students' learning and motivation, teacher effectiveness, and school-community relationships.

The evaluation documents, based on data and feedback from schools and communities where Learning Centers have been in place **for at least two years**, show how the project has changed the lives of children, teachers and communities for the better. Control schools were established for the evaluation.

Overall, the study found that nearly all schools in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe have a strong sense of commitment to using the equipment. The teachers were very positive about the training they received, which they say has given them the skills and confidence to use television in the classroom. Teachers used the video material very effectively to illustrate and reinforce classroom learning. Community members are enthusiastic about the information and entertainment opportunities available through the Learning Centers. Some of the findings include:

- Improved student motivation
- Improved concentration and memory, in particular the ability to grasp abstract concepts
- Improved English language and creativity skills
- Increased access to teaching aids for teachers
- Increased use of a variety of teaching tools by teachers
- Improved teacher professional development
- Increased parent and community involvement in schools
- Increased enrollment in some project schools
- Increased retention rates in some project schools
- Improved pass rates on matriculation exams in some schools

The evaluation process was designed to create standard data elements and data collection instruments and surveys that can be used in an ongoing fashion. Already, the instruments, developed jointly by Clacherty and DCGEF staff through this evaluation effort, have been used for baseline surveys in the 12 pilot Learning Centers in Namibia.

Elsewhere in Africa, the Learning Center project has demonstrated its positive impact on students' learning and teachers' professional development. These measurable, replicable results are highly relevant to USAID's goal to improve the quality of language, math and science education in Namibian primary schools.

The final evaluation report will be distributed in January 2004.

Success Stories: Examples of Project Impact

"I feel excited and happy. I think our school is now rich because the other schools have no television. When the other schools come here, I feel much happier because I feel I am ahead of them and it is our school teaching them. I wish all the teachers could use the television in all the subjects because I like to learn and watch at the same time. Yes. Then it is easy for me to describe it to you. Sometimes our teachers tell us to make things we have never seen, now we just tell them to switch on the TV so we can see exactly what they are talking about."

-- Student, Kayengona Combined School



Increased Parental Involvement

Many families in the Onamulunga community do not have television. When the Learning Center in Onamulunga Combined School was opened in April 2003, the project generated excitement not only from students and teachers, but also from parents. Children would come home from school and eagerly tell their parents about what they had seen on TV, and encourage the parents to visit the Learning Centers and see things for themselves.

Recently, two elderly parents visited the school and asked to meet with the principal. They asked the principal to allow them to sit in on one of the classes and observe this new 'thing' that everyone was talking about. The principal gladly agreed.

Sitting quietly in the back of the classroom, the parents watched as a teacher popped into the VCR a DCGEF program on cheetahs. As the lesson unfolded, the parents were amazed. While they did not understand English like their children did, they were no less excited about the vivid power of the images on the screen. They followed the whole lesson to the end.

After the program, the two parents congratulated the principal for doing a marvelous job of bringing the equipment that enabled their children to see worlds that had been previously beyond their reach. The principal invited them to watch other programs at the Learning Centers, and said that the teachers would be happy to interpret for them.

Through USAID's support the Learning Center project is helping to increase communication among teachers, students and parents, making new educational opportunities possible, not only for children, but for parents as well.

Increased Community Involvement – HIV/AIDS workshops and others



The Learning Center project makes a point of encouraging long-term community participation. Communities can use – and have indeed used – the equipment and available programming to conduct workshops on HIV/AIDS and other health issues, as well as on other topics relevant to their needs. In some schools, teachers conduct HIV/AIDS training for the communities and show videos on AIDS and other issues. The communities also use the Learning Centers to gain access to news and entertainment programs.

In addition, the Learning Centers are available to other local groups, such as non-governmental organizations and circuit inspectors who conduct training in the cluster schools. Circuit inspectors have an opportunity to encourage other teachers from surrounding schools to use the equipment and programming at the Learning Centers.

Challenges And Recommendations:

Distances Between Schools

The 12 Learning Centers are distributed in six educational regions (Erongo, Kunene, Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto and Kavango). The distances between the Learning Centers are vast. As a result, it is not possible for one local DCGEF staff member to visit the sites with the frequency DCGEF has found necessary to ensure project success and sustainability.

The regions were chosen in accordance with the requests of the partners, while considering DCGEF's concern regarding the ability to provide adequate training and support from one person based in Windhoek. Originally NIED offered to provide one or two part-time monitors to supervise the project in some regions. Since this has not materialized, DCGEF is seeking to hire someone who can assume the role of a trainer-monitor, within the budget approved by USAID. The job has been posted and the DCGEF Country Representative will review applications in January.

Further Training for Teachers

The ongoing training aims at improving teacher confidence in the operation of the equipment, including recording. The project is still relatively new in the schools and as with any new tool, some teachers take longer than others to acquire confidence in their ability to use the equipment effectively. This demonstrates the importance of DCGEF's three-years of training and monitoring which allows the teachers to become facile with using the new tools. DCGEF is also working with MultiChoice and the MBESC to implement regular visits by MultiChoice agents who could provide additional technical assistance with the use of the equipment and regular visits by MBESC circuit inspectors who can also support the schools.

Safeguarding the Equipment

In September 2003, thieves broke into Onamulunga Combined School in Oshikoto and stole all the equipment except the satellite dish. Months earlier, parents and community members had contributed money to hire a security guard to protect the Learning Center. Police are investigating the incident and DCGEF will keep USAID informed of any developments. DCGEF is now exploring with the schools how to obtain insurance for the equipment.

Out of the 144 Learning Centers, only six have suffered thefts over the last five years. Although DCGEF's policy is that communities must take responsibility for the safety of the equipment and DCGEF does not replace stolen equipment, efforts are made to work with the schools to help ensure project continuity when such events occur. In each case of theft to date (with the exception of the recent theft in Namibia), schools have either recovered the stolen items, found local sponsors or raised funds themselves to replace

the equipment. In addition, these six schools have found new and creative ways to increase security.

School Holidays

The up-coming school holidays (4 December 2003 to 20 January 2004) are the longest holidays in Namibia, and the absence of teachers and students from the schools may affect community access to the Learning Centers. DCGEF is planning to train a school board member on the use of the equipment so communities can have access even when the volunteer coordinators and trained teachers are on vacation. In the event that there is no school board member available for training, the Learning Center will have to be temporarily closed for security reasons, until the teachers are back from vacation.

Strategic Direction for 2004:

The rich and varied experiences that USAID, DCGEF, MultiChoice and other Alliance partners have gained in the current year provide a solid foundation upon which we can build. The participating schools are using the previously unavailable tools to enhance the learning experience for their students, teachers, and the larger community. DCGEF will use the lessons learned to ensure that the equipment continues to meet the local needs and is put to even fuller use.



The success of this year in Namibia and other countries has prompted DCGEF to set the following priorities for 2004:

- Building partnerships, capacity and opportunities for growth. This will entail working with USAID and other partners to aggressively seek additional partnerships and funding to increase the number of Learning Centers in Namibia during 2004.
- Continuing to ensure positive impact and effective use of the resources.
- Employment of two part-time DCGEF monitors/trainers as the project expands.
- Continuing to provide training and monitoring services to the Learning Centers so that participating schools and communities can derive maximum educational benefits from these resources.

- Finalizing site selection in early 2004 for the five new Learning Centers to be established in partnership with AAI and continue to explore growth opportunities.
- Discussing with USAID how DCGEF might complement USAID's goal of improving basic education in Namibia through its **Basic Education Support (BES)** and **Primary Education Support** projects. DCGEF proposes to work together with BES in the following areas:
 - Teacher development
 - Parent involvement
 - School improvement programs
 - School-based HIV/AIDS training programs

Based on the results of the independent evaluation, the Learning Center project in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe has proven its success in helping improve learning and teaching in under-resourced contexts – with particular emphasis on primary school students.

- Discussing with USAID how to best work together to complement USAID's commitment to improve basic education in Namibia and help alleviate the HIV/AIDS crisis through school-based approaches. The independent evaluation in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe also demonstrated that the potential for HIV/AIDS education in the Learning Centers is immense. Already, in Namibia and elsewhere, schools and communities are using the Learning Center facilities to conduct workshops on HIV/AIDS, and demand for related programming is increasing.

Conclusion:



In partnership with USAID Namibia, the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture, MultiChoice Namibia, and other stakeholders, DCGEF will continue to build on the experiences and accomplishments discussed above. For everyone involved, there are immediate and long-term benefits in expanding the Learning Center project, which provides significant support to major educational priorities in Namibia.

DCGEF plans to strengthen key aspects of the project, such as: cluster school system, technology solutions, HIV/AIDS awareness education, and interventions geared towards improving basic education in Namibia. This project has generated remarkably positive feedback within and beyond the communities involved. Within this reporting period, DCGEF has seen a substantial increase in support from the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture.

DCGEF is confident that, with the continuing support of USAID Namibia and other partners, the Learning Center project will do even more in the years ahead to help improve the quality of life in Namibia's under-served communities.

What People Have to Say about the Project

Students and Teachers

"I feel excited and happy. I think our school is now rich because the other schools have no television. When the other schools come here, I feel much happier because I feel I am ahead of them and it is our school teaching them. I wish all the teachers could use the television in all the subjects because I like to learn and watch at the same time. Yes. Then it is easy for me to describe it to you. Sometimes our teachers tell us to make things we have never seen, now we just tell them to switch on the TV so we can see exactly what they are talking about."

Student, Kayengona Combined School

"There is no reason or excuse that a neighboring school should not attend the training sessions or not being able to use the equipment at any given time. We support this project entirely and will make sure that it is a success in the chosen schools in Rundu. The regional office will give them all the support they need. We will assist wherever possible even if we have to provide transportation to the DCGEF school or chairs for the rooms."

Mr. Kantema, Kavango Regional Education Director

"I will personally take time out to visit each school where the equipment has been installed and talk to the principals and teachers and see how we can assist wherever they have problems. We consider ourselves fortunate to have this equipment and no teacher should deprive any learner of a chance to a better education."

Mr. Kantema, Kavango Regional Education Director

"I had no idea that Channel 82 was an Educational channel. I will definitely use it in my classes and encourage the student teachers particularly those going on teaching practice to view it. Besides the learning content it also covers practical methods of teaching methodology that they can learn from and better use of English."

Mr. John Kamwi, Lecturer from Rundu College of Education

"Our community thinks it is the best school that is why we are rewarded with the equipment. We cannot disappoint them if they think this way. The equipment will help us work harder and produce the best results in the region."

"We have trained our staff members, our cluster member schools and also the Board members of the School Board."

Principal, Kasote Combined School

“This is an amazing thing you have done for us. We find ourselves staying back after school because the learners refuse to go home, especially the little ones from the junior section. They literally demand for us to switch on the TV so that they can sit and watch while waiting for the elder brothers and sisters in the senior section to knock off. We no longer face a problem of absenteeism because everyday they look forward to watching television. We want to thank you once again.”

Mrs. Sylvia Kathindi, Head of Department from Amutanga Combined School

“I am overwhelmed by what my school and community got. I personally learned a lot and this will only enhance my personal competencies. Your efforts to plough back is visible. Keep it up!”

Teacher, Namibia

“The problem is we only have five days in a week and we have more schools in our circuit. How do we fit them in for viewing? Right now we can not cope with the demand for both training on the use of the equipment for classroom use for the cluster teachers and also the demand for the community who want to come in and just listen to the news bulletin.”

Teacher, Kayengona Combined School

Partners

“MultiChoice Namibia is convinced that an investment in education today will ensure a thriving economy tomorrow. We are happy therefore to make this contribution towards more interesting and exciting education.

“MultiChoice Namibia and the Discovery Channel Global Education Fund trust that through this project, exciting new horizons will be opened up for the students of the beneficiary schools. Topics, which they read about in books or discuss in theory, will become real to them as they see programmes presented by international experts in vivid and accessible ways. Access to news channels will enhance their knowledge of current events on the African continent and the rest of the world.”

Kobus Bezuidenhout, MultiChoice Namibia General Manager, on the official launch of DCGEF in Namibia, July 9, 2003

“The project that is being launched today should therefore be seen as a practical manifestation of a partnership with Discovery Channel Global Education Fund, MultiChoice Namibia, and USAID, in terms of investing in information infrastructure to enhance the noble goals of education, training, and learning.”

The Honorable John Mutorwa, Minister of Basic Education, Culture and Sport, Namibia, on the launch of DCGEF in Namibia, July 9, 2003

"The responsibility for education is shared widely. While the Ministry of Education and Culture of course has primary responsibility, it relies on the active participation and cooperation of many others – individuals and organizations, public and private, national and international, large and small – to develop and support a sound education system. Just as all of us has a role to play in ensuring that the system works well. We must stop thinking of education as something that the government does and start thinking of education as something that belongs to all of us."

The Honorable John Mutorwa, Minister of Basic Education, Culture and Sport, Namibia, on the launch of DCGEF in Namibia, July 9, 2003

"In as much as the whole world is becoming a global village, we are facing the HIV/AIDS challenges, therefore as teachers we need to examine the way we teach. The training received here will empower you to use technology to enhance teaching and facilitate the quantum leap towards addressing the challenges that the profession is facing. DCGEF's training programme will position all of us to ensure that we deal the challenges facing us."

Alfred Ilukena, Deputy Director, National Institute for Educational Development

"What better way to teach and explore the world than through the use of the television? The images on the screen can take us to worlds we may never have opportunity to physically experience and can help us touch those who seem so far out of reach."

Clara G. Bohitile, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Basic Education, Sport, and Culture

"There is a very real power behind information and knowledge. The school resources, indeed, the community-wide resources that we see here today will be used to expand the horizons of all generations and further empower individuals, young and old. Learning Centers such as this one will allow a transformation to take place in the classroom whereby children will be able to experience the world through their own senses, not just through the eyes or words of others."

US Ambassador to Namibia Kevin McGuire, on the official launch of DCGEF in Namibia, July 9, 2003